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Table of contents

Featured Wood of the Month	2
Timber Talk on Newman Portal	2
Get to know ...	3
Vote Toshach	4-5
Chips from the Woodpile	6-7
Woods of the World	8

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I find this time of year is a great time to sit back and reflect last year's events and then look at what the New Year holds. I do not want to talk about the current state of affairs the whole world is facing, but on what you personally can do at this time to be productive in your hobby of collecting woods. This is a great time to organize your collection. Look at the duplications you have and make a list, so fellow collectors can trade or buy them from you. Another list to compile would be a "want list" you can have it handy for when you come across woods at coin shows or eBay, etc. If you use a format like an excel spreadsheet, it is easy to make any updates that are required. Your main list of course would be your collection as a whole and would contain all your woods and different varieties that they come in. How you set this list up is up to you, but the secret is to keep the lists updated as that way you know exactly what you have in your collection.

We are still looking for someone to step forward and run the Featured Wood of the Month program. Ross Kingdon has done a fantastic job is running this for about 30 years now. I would like to thank him for his time and effort over all those years in making this a special benefit for the membership. But I am sad this might be the last year that this program will run if we cannot find a replacement for Ross. If you are interested, please contact me. Ross is willing to show how this program is run to anyone that is interested in taking it over.

Cheers

James

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Featured Wood of the Month



This wood is listed, along with all others in that set, as number 4730 - 052, in the new supplement that came out in January. This personal wood was part of a set of 26 woods was The Societe Numismatique de Quebec 60 th Anniversary woods program.

The obverse shows the emblem of the Société Numismatique de Québec, inspired by the design appearing on the penny issued by the Banque du Québec in 1852, which reproduced the first emblem of the city of Quebec, adopted in 1833. In caption: SOCIÉTÉ NUMISMATIQUE DE QUÉBEC and 1960-2020, in reference to the 60th anniversary of the S.N.Q.

The reverse was described by France in the June 2021 issue of Timber talk:

I chose to surround my name with three symbols representing my not-too-clear belonging and allegiance. I was born and raised in Quebec, represented by the fleur-de-lys, and have spent half of my life in Ontario, represented by its emblem, the trillium. As numismatics have taken me across the country, where I have friends in every corner and where I feel at home everywhere, the maple leaf is also in order. The moto "laissez le bon temps rouler" (let the good times roll) reminds me a little of my origins. It first appeared on our personalized medals in the 1980s and is found on all my wooden tokens issued to date.

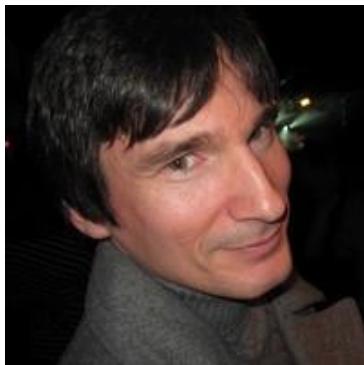
These woods were produced by GraphX from Quebec. They are made of wood and are laser cut. They measure 35mm in diameter. 26 double-layered (piéfort) and 124 single thickness woods were produced.

Timber Talk on the NEWMAN Portal

All the **2019** issues of Timber Talk, along with those covering the period **2008-2018** can now be found on the **NEWMAN Portal**. Visit nnp.wustl.edu/library/periodicals. Then click on the letter "t" and scroll down to "TimberTalk". Select a year. Voilà!

All Timber Talk issues from **2020, 2021 and 2022** can be found on the **woodsy.com** website, courtesy of Judy Blackman.

Get to Know **Kevin Day-Thorburn**



It happened by accident. That is how I got started collecting woods. Back in the late 1990s, I was part of the ACCCR (Atlantic Canadian Coin Collectors Rally) and we would organize coin shows for the APNA (Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association) in Nova Scotia. It was at these shows that these strange people, who happened to be the friendliest collectors I ever met, would hand me a wooden nickel without any expectation of getting something in return. Before I knew what happened, judging by the little shoebox of woods in my office, I had become one of these strange people. I'm still working on the friendly part.

I was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and have been a coin collector since I was ten or so. As a kid, I would marvel at the coins in the rotating display cases at Bluenose Coin and Stamps and couldn't wait to be able to purchase some. I remember one of my first buys was an 1899 US dime because I didn't have any coins from the 1800s and couldn't imagine anything that ancient. A savvy investor I'm not, as that dime still isn't worth what I paid for it.

Since a fairly early age, I've been involved with coin clubs. I joined the RCNA in 1987, the APNA around that time, and the Halifax Coin Club in the '90s. There's no question coin clubs have helped with my development as a numismatist and I remain active to this day.

I moved to Saint John, New Brunswick around eleven years ago and am the current president of the Saint John Coin Club and editor of their newsletter. I've also edited The Atlantic Numismatist (twice), and the RCNA's NumisNotes, in addition to the newsletter for the newly formed Canadian Banking Memorabilia Society Stephen Oatway and I founded. I'm the area director for New Brunswick and PEI for the RCNA and was honored to become a fellow in 2018.

Professionally, I have a background in banking and writing, but currently I run a social media management business with my wife, Heather, with several numismatic clients, do coin photography, and started my own numismatic auction company last year.

CAWMC is an organization like no other and I'm happy to do whatever I can to promote wood collecting. Numismatics is a big part of my life - my wife says that I could have worse addictions - and I strongly suspect that won't change anytime soon.

Kevin Day-Thorburn, FRCNA
CAWMC Vice-President

- Photo: LinkedIn

VOTE TOSCHACH LEADER

A CATALOGUE DILEMNA

AL MUNRO, FRCNA, LMCAWMC, LMCNS

What is the catalogue dilemma?

The October 2020 Timber Talk included my article titled “ COLLECTING WOODEN MONEY WITHIN REGIONAL BOUNDARIES” The article described situations encountered by wooden money collectors who collect regionally or topically and not nation wide, when they attempt to catalogue their collection. One of the situations discussed is convention woods. Convention woods are usually listed under the home city of the issuer but have occasionally been listed under the convention city. In the past some of the woods issued for a particular convention have been listed under the convention city and some have been listed under the issuer home location.

Norm Belsten called me to discuss a wood included in Norm Well’s catalogue in 1979. The wood is listed under Edmonton as 8300-015 “VOTE TOSCHACH LEADER” and is shown as issued in 1958. A second variety, with a different reverse, is shown as 8300-096. Norm advised he had received queries indicating that the wood was incorrectly listed and the collector inquiring had advised the woods should be listed as Drumheller and not under Edmonton.



Background

Eneas Albert Toshach was the Mayor of Drumheller when he ran for the leader of The Alberta Conservative Party in 1958. The convention was held in Edmonton. Mr. Toshach issued the wooden nickel to promote his campaign. I assume that, as no address is shown on the wooden nickel, early collectors of wooden nickels attributed the wood to Edmonton, the site of the convention. He was not successful nor was he successful when he ran for Drumheller MLA in 1959, nor when he ran for provincial leader again in 1962. Is it possible that 8300-096 was issued for the 1962 convention in Calgary?



The Toshach name is well known in Alberta, especially to collectors of Medalta Pottery. Eneas' father, also named Eneas Albert and who died in 1950 at the age of 72, was a well known merchant in Drumheller from at least 1915 to at least 1944 (according to pictures at the Glenbow Museum), and he gave away pottery made by Medalta Potteries in Medicine Hat Alberta.

Eneas Senior, upon moving into Drumheller, changed the spelling of his name from the original "Toshack" to "Toshach" to be sure that no one mistook his name for being Eastern European or otherwise, because he was Scottish. There were a lot of hostility towards immigrants at this time in Drumheller, mainly because of the war.

Conclusion

I believe that arguments can be made towards the inclusion of the ELECT TOSHACH LEADER woods as either Drumheller or as Edmonton and I feel little would be gained to remove the wood from the Edmonton listings and re listing them as Drumheller woods. I would suggest collectors who maintain their own listings should include them in both locations and cross reference them. The possibility of wood 8300-096 being issued for a Calgary convention causes one to wonder if it should be relisted as a Calgary wood, however, as it is highly unlikely this fact could be verified, I think nothing would be gained in relisting.

From your editor, a fun tidbit:

A *Backstage in Politics* column, written by Blair Fraser, dated June 21, 1958, published by Maclean's Magazine have an interesting sub-section titled The Elvis of Drumheller, that reads:

"The other aspirants for the Alberta leadership haven't yet made any mark at all in provincial politics. (...) E. A. Toshach is the mayor of Drumheller—a brash young man whom one Conservative described as "a cross between Marlon Brando and Elvis Presley."

It's hard to imagine a cross between Brando and Presley moving around the circles of Conservative minded, and quite austere looking, politicians of the time.



Chips from the Woodpile ...By Dave Gillespie



Lou Vesh turned a "Mile" into a "Smile" with the use of the letter 'S' on a wood that he made. In fact, he probably didn't walk one hundred miles but he certainly created 100 smiles as that was about the number of woods he donated to C.A.W.M.C. to be handed out as a free wood of the month.

An article entitled "Forgot the Year, Forgot the Place, Never Forgot the Feeling" appeared in May of 2010 written by our very own President, France Waychison. It was in the mid 1980's and she did the 'wifely' thing and accompanied her husband, Bill to one of his coin conventions. Bill tried so hard to get her interested that he took the time and walked France through the many displays with explanations on the numerous areas of interest in the hobby. They stopped at a display of spruce dollars, and she was fascinated. At the same time somebody approached them and started talking about the 'Club'. France thought, what, there is a Club for people who collect pieces of wood? Before she knew it, she was signed up for the C.A.W.M.C.'s Sunday morning Breakfast meeting and she wasn't disappointed. After a warm reception and introductions of guests the meeting turned to business and as she remembers, a speaker went on a long rant for ten or fifteen minutes about something that must have been collection related. When the meeting finally ended, she thought to herself "those people are completely nuts, I



love it"! France wrote in her article that collecting wooden nickels was a good stress reliever and get away from the turbulence of earning a living as a tax auditor. France Waychison was our President for 2015-2021 and remains our Bulletin Editor. We thank you dearly for all your hard work and dedication to C.A.W.M.C. So, C.A.W.M.C. members lesson learned, it's time to take your spouse or partner to the next annual R.C.N.A. to not only take in the host city for its beauty and the adventure of the organized day trips and outing offered but also to enjoy the convention with lots of friendship, hospitality and the C.A.W.M.C. Breakfast meeting.

The Touchstone Nelson Art & History Museum was reported to have had 800 admission tokens made from B.C. Beetle Kill Pine. The tokens were good for a half price entry fee, initially issued in 2007 and continued until the end of 2008 when the supply ran out. When asked 'why a wooden token' the logic was first, to provide members with a complimentary pass to the museum collectable enough

that perhaps they would be kept as souvenirs and not redeemed; secondly, they had an environmental benefit utilizing pine beetle killed wood; and thirdly the tokens were durable and could be recycled. Well thought out! And did you know that touchstone is an ancient device for testing the purity of gold or silver alloy. The amalgam is drawn across this fine-grained dark stone and the colour of the resulting mark reveals the quality of the metal and from this practical use, a metaphor arose: a touchstone is a criterion by which excellence is recognized.

The museum was possibly a customer of Jim Smith, as he promotes beetle kill pine for all of his customer's orders as confirmed below.

Did you know that the phrase “Two Shakes of a Lamb’s Tail” refers to doing something quickly, with no pause or hesitation and nowadays has been shortened to “two shakes” because not so many people are growing up around livestock ? The phrase originates from an 1840 book and of course refers to how fast lamb’s shake their tails (really fast). A shake is now considered to be a unit of time equal to 10 nanoseconds.

AND now for a quiz question:

1. The “Cradle of Mining” wood was issued for what town?

And in what year?

Til next time Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie

Answer to the quiz question of January 2022

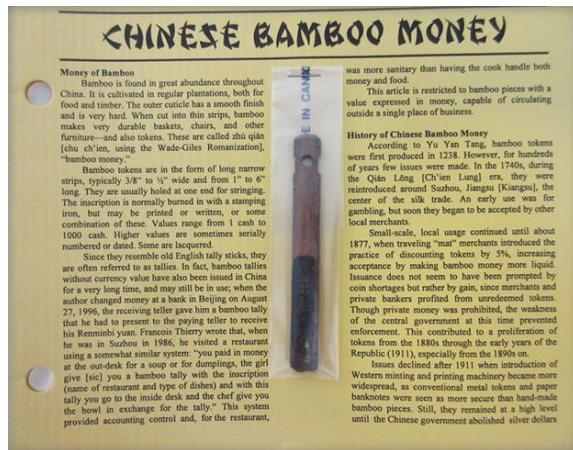
Q. Sault Ste. Marie issued ten "Soo Locks Centennial" woods in 1955. Do you know the two denominations or values used and the colours for each?

A. 5 Cents in Blue, Green, Purple, Brown, Red & Black, 7 ½ Cents in Red, Black, Green & Purple



Woods of the World By Vic Agha

Hono(u)rable mention: Bamboo. While technically a grass, bamboo for all intents and purposes functions like a wood. The Chinese made bamboo tokens as early as 1238. Usage remained limited until about 1877, where selling them at a discounted rate increased their popularity. They generally fell out of use by the 1940s, though some were in use as late as the 1960s. Bamboo tallies are fairly common, though most of them bear commodity values on them. Some bear monetary values.



Conclusion. Though difficult to track down information, there is surely more to be had out there. And depending on how you consider them, there are a lot more concepts related to this idea that can be had: medals from the 1890s made of wood pulp, a modern day silver Cook Islands coin with a removable wooden cover, Italian "bimetallic" tokens with wood centers and rings made of brass, silver, or gold.

There are plenty of mystery items that I'd like to think were made of whatever trees were most common or convenient to the region, and there are almost certainly other wood types that can be figured out. If you ever find ones I don't have or don't know of, feel free to reach out to me.

Vic Agha

From Editor: I would like to thank Vic Agha for his 13 -parts series on Woods of the World.

Those articles have certainly opened my mind (and my curiosity) to the different species of this noble material. I hope you enjoyed them as well.

France